

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Krzysztof SKIBA
For: Clip for Fixing a Light Source Around an Edge of a Panel
Appl. No.: 10/596,284
Int. App. No.: PCT/PL04/00099
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Response After Final Action Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Applicant submits the following amendments and comments in response to the final office action mailed on March 27, 2008 on the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A lighting clip fixed on a portion of an edge of a transparent or semi-transparent panel in a removable or permanent way, and supplied by an electric power system, said clip comprising a section having one side open, joined with a connector, a first and a second clamping arm, and an internal space; said section equipped with at least one source of light placed in the internal space, which source of light illuminates a portion of the panel and wherein the section is in form of an elastic, self-supporting shape, the clamping arms are completely linear, and the first clamping arm is diagonal to an external surface of the panel.

2. (currently amended) The clip, according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the section is in form of an elastic, self-supporting shape,~~ the clamping arms are of different lengths, ~~and the first clamping arm is diagonal to an external surface of the panel.~~

3. (currently amended) The clip, according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the section is in form of an elastic, self-supporting shape,~~ the clamping arms are of equal length, and both arms are diagonal to a surface of the panel.

4. (canceled) The clip, according to Claim 1, where both arms are parallel.

5. (new) A lighting clip fixed on a portion of an edge of a transparent or semi-transparent panel in a removable or permanent way, and supplied by an electric power system, said clip comprising a section having one side open, joined with a connector, a first and second clamping arm and an internal space; said section equipped with at least one source of light placed in the internal space, which source of light illuminates a portion of the panel and wherein the section is in form of an elastic, self-supporting shape and the clamping arms are completely parallel to each other.

COMMENTS

Claims 1-4 were the claims in the case. Claims 1, 2, and 3 have been amended, claim 4 has been canceled. New claim 5 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5 are all the claims in the case.

The Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the light source illuminates only a portion of the panel. Claim 1 has been further amended to include the limitations that the clamping arms are completely linear. This amendment is supported by Figs. 2, 4-7.

Claim 4 is canceled. New claim 5 is the same as claim 1 except for the recitation that the clamping arms of claim 5 are completely parallel. This new claim is supported by Figs. 5-7.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 as anticipated by US Patent 6,309,081 to Furihata. This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations, previously in claim 2, that the section is in form of an elastic, self-supporting shape and the first clamping arm is diagonal to an external surface of the panel. Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the clamping arms are completely linear. These limitations are not disclosed in the Furihata reference. Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 2 and 3, as dependent on claim 1, are not anticipated by the Furihata reference.

Claim 4 has been canceled but new claim 5 has been added which recites the limitation of claim 4 that both arms are parallel. The examiner notes that Furihata discloses a clip where both arms are temporarily parallel to each other. New claim 5 recites that the clamping arms

are completely parallel to each other. This limitation is not disclosed in Furihata, and thus Furihata does not anticipate new claim 5.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as obvious in view of US Patent 6,979,115 to Ohizumi. This rejection is traversed.

The Ohizumi patent discloses a system for providing positionable light to a liquid crystal display. As shown in Figs. 1, 4, and 9, the light source is mounted along the entire edge of the panel such that the entire surface of the panel is evenly illuminated. The Ohizumi patent does not disclose or teach using a light clip to illuminate only a portion of the panel, as claimed in amended claim 1, and indeed, the Ohizumi patent teaches away from such a limitation.

The problem that the Ohizumi patent seeks to solve is the deterioration of the brightness of a liquid crystal display that uses surrounding light as a light source. In order to overcome the problem, Ohizumi incorporates a light source bar that is carefully positioned to illuminate the entire display panel. Col. 2, lines 33-45. There is no teaching or suggestion in Ohizumi to illuminate only a portion of the panel since that would only exacerbate the problem that Ohizumi was setting out to solve. Thus, the difference between the present claimed invention and Ohizumi is not merely a matter of relative dimensions of the light source. Instead, the device as claimed in the present invention performs entirely differently from the lighting apparatus disclosed in the Ohizumi reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Ohizumi patent does not render obvious claim 1 or 2 of the present application. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the claims as amended present patentable subject matter. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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